

Foster's Online, September 18, 2006

Laws seek to protect the animals

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New Hampshire law makes it illegal for someone to deprive an animal in their care, possession or custody of "care, sustenance or shelter."

Animals used for labor are further protected from being overworked or overloaded.

Those transporting animals must protect an animal's health, safety and physical well-being.

Abandoning an animal in New Hampshire is also a crime.

Other laws require that any live animal kept in any elementary or secondary school shall be housed and cared for in a humane and safe manner and shall be the personal responsibility of the teacher or other adult supervisor of the project or study. Violators can be charged with a misdemeanor.

School principals, administrators and teachers are further barred from allowing any live vertebrate animal to be used in any elementary or secondary school, or in any activity associated with such school, such as science fairs, as part of a scientific experiment or procedure in which the health of the animal is interfered with, or in which pain, suffering, or distress is caused.

New Hampshire law further bars animal shelters or animal care centers from giving, releasing, trading or selling animals to other facilities for use in experimentation or vivisection.

All animals that are destroyed by animal control officers, humane societies or animal care facilities or agents acting on their behalf must be killed humanely using a method approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Violators may be charged with a misdemeanor.

Horses, oxen and cattle used in livestock events, including pulling contests, shows and races, are protected from "doping" and "stimulating" by state law. It is also illegal to dock a horse's tail, unless a veterinarian certifies that the procedure is medically necessary.

State law also regulates the slaughter of food animals, mandating "humane" methods. Slaughtering must be accomplished by "rendering [animals] insensible to pain by a single blow or shot of a mechanical instrument or by electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid and effective, before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut."

Other laws ban killing veal calves less than four-weeks-old and weighing less than 40 pounds, exclusive of head or feet.

The method of slaughtering required by the ritual of the Jewish faith, in which the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous

severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument, is allowed, provided the method used in bringing the animal into position for slaughter causes no injury or pain if it imposes no unreasonable economic hardship.

State law also precludes people from keeping, breeding or training any bird, dog or other animals with the intention of using it or its offspring for fighting. Violators may be charged with a Class B felony.